

C L A I M S

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1. A voice communication system comprising:  
a telephone network including a multiplicity of tele-  
phones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;  
a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and  
enabling e-mail communication between said nodes;  
a multiplicity of voice response computers, each voice  
response computer being connected to a node of said computer  
network and being actuable by an input received from one of said  
multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for commu-  
nicating voice received via said one of said multiplicity of  
telephones via e-mail over said computer network.

2. A voice communication system comprising:  
a telephone network including a multiplicity of tele-  
phones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;  
a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and  
enabling e-mail communication between said nodes;  
a multiplicity of voice response computers, each voice  
response computer being connected to a node of said computer  
network and being actuable by an input received from one of said  
multiplicity of voice response computers via said computer net-  
work for receiving voice communicated via e-mail over said  
computer network and providing a voice output to a telephone via  
said telephone network.

3. A voice communication system comprising:

a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling e-mail communication between said nodes;

a multiplicity of voice response computers, each voice response computer being connected to a node of said computer network and being actuable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for communicating voice received via said one of said multiplicity of telephones via e-mail over said computer network, each voice response computer also being actuable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of voice response computers via said computer network for receiving voice communicated via e-mail over said computer network and providing a voice output to a telephone via said telephone network.

4. A voice communication system comprising:

a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling e-mail communication between said nodes;

a multiplicity of voice response computers, each voice response computer being connected to a node of said computer network and being actuable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for communicating voice received via said one of said multiplicity of telephones via a non-streaming Internet protocol over said computer network.

5.

A voice communication system comprising:

a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling non-streaming Internet protocol communication between said nodes;

a multiplicity of voice response computers, each voice response computer being connected to a node of said computer network and being actuable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of voice response computers via said computer network for receiving voice communicated via a non-streaming internet protocol over said computer network and providing a voice output to a telephone via said telephone network.

6.

A voice communication system comprising:

a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling e-mail communication between said nodes;

a multiplicity of voice response computers, each voice response computer being connected to a node of said computer network and being actuable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for communicating voice received via said one of said multiplicity of telephones via a non-streaming Internet protocol over said computer network, each voice response computer also being actuable

by an input received from one of said multiplicity of voice response computers via said computer network for receiving voice communicated via a non-streaming Internet protocol over said computer network and providing a voice output to a telephone via said telephone network.

7.

A communication system comprising:

a cellular telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling communication between said nodes;

a multiplicity of computers, each computer being connected to a node of said computer network and being actuable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for communicating messages received via said one of said multiplicity of telephones via a telephone compatible Internet communication language over said computer network, at least one of senders or recipients of said messages being user-selected buddies.

8.

A communication system comprising:

a cellular telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling communication between said nodes;

a multiplicity of computers, each computer being

connected to a node of said computer network and being actuable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of voice response computers via said computer network for receiving messages communicated via a telephone compatible Internet communication language over said computer network and providing a telephone compatible Internet communication language output to a telephone via said telephone network, at least one of senders or recipients of said messages being user-selected buddies.

9. A communication system comprising:
- a cellular telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;
  - a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling communication between said nodes;
  - a multiplicity of computers, each computer being connected to a node of said computer network and being actuable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for communicating messages received via said one of said multiplicity of telephones via a telephone compatible Internet communication language over said computer network, each computer also being actuable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of computers via said computer network for receiving messages communicated over said computer network and providing a telephone compatible Internet communication language output to a telephone via said telephone network, at least one of senders or recipients of said messages being

user-selected buddies.

10. A communication system for use with a computer network and comprising:

- a recorder recording a sender's voice;
- a web server storing the sender's voice; and
- a notifier sending a notification to at least one recipient, said notification containing a link enabling retrieval of the sender's voice from said web server.

11. A communication system comprising:

- a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;
- a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling communication between said nodes;
- at least one web server connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes; and
- at least one voice response computer connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes,

and wherein:

- at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates data with said at least one web server using a telephone compatible Internet communication language;

- at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates voice with said at least one voice response computer; and

- at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates identification information to said at least one

voice response computer, said identification information establishing a connection between said voice and said data.

12. A communication system comprising:

a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling communication between said nodes;

at least one web server connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes; and

at least one voice response computer connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes,

and wherein:

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates data with said at least one web server using a telephone compatible Internet communication language;

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates voice with said at least one voice response computer;

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates identification information to said at least one voice response computer, said identification information establishing a connection between said voice and said data; and

said at least one voice response computer records said voice received from said at least one of said multiplicity of telephones.

13.

A communication system comprising:

a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling communication between said nodes;

at least one web server connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes; and

at least one voice response computer connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes,

and wherein:

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates data with said at least one web server using a telephone compatible Internet communication language;

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates voice with said at least one voice response computer; and

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates identification information to said at least one voice response computer, said identification information establishing a connection between said voice and said data;

said at least one voice response computer records said voice received from said at least one of said multiplicity of telephones and stores said voice on said web server; and

a notification is sent to at least one recipient, said notification containing a link enabling retrieval of the voice from said web server.



14. A communication system comprising:  
a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling e-mail communication between said nodes; and  
at least one database connected to said computer network and storing e-mail communications between said nodes.

15. A communication system according to claim 14 and also comprising at least one voice response computer connected at a node of said computer network, said at least one voice response computer being capable of accessing said at least one database.

16. A communication system according to claim 15 and wherein at least one proxy is interposed between said at least one voice response computer and said at least one database.

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17. A communication system according to claim 1 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network.

18. A communication system according to claim 1 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

19. A communication system according to claim 1 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to

user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's voice response computer.

20. A communication system according to claim 1 and wherein said voice response computers are operative to convert DTMF to a buddy communication protocol.

21. A communication system according to claim 1 and wherein said voice response computers communicate with a database.

22. A communication system according to claim 21 and wherein said database is an SQL database.

23. A communication system according to claim 1 and wherein said multiplicity of voice response computers is actuated by the sender choosing an e-mail address of a recipient from a pre-defined directory.

24. A communication system according to claim 1 and wherein said multiplicity of voice response computers are actuated by the sender entering an e-mail address of a recipient via DTMF codes.

25. A communication system according to claim 24 and wherein said multiplicity of voice response computers are operative to store in a directory, e-mail addresses entered by a sender.

26. A communication system according to claim 1 and wherein said multiplicity of voice response computers is actuated by the sender entering an e-mail address of a recipient via speech recognition by one of said multiplicity of voice response computers.

27. A communication system according to claim 2 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network.

28. A communication system according to claim 2 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

29. A communication system according to claim 2 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's voice response computer.

30. A communication system according to claim 2 and wherein said voice response computers are capable of sensing the presence of a link to an audio file in e-mail received thereat.

31. A communication system according to claim 30 and wherein said voice response computers are capable of accessing said audio file via said link for playing said audio file to a recipient.

32. A communication system according to claim 3 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network.

33. A communication system according to claim 3 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

34. A communication system according to claim 3 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's voice response computer.

35. A communication system according to claim 4 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network.

36. A communication system according to claim 4 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to

user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

37. A communication system according to claim 4 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's voice response computer.

38. A communication system according to claim 4 and wherein said voice response computers are operative to convert DTMF to a buddy communication protocol.

39. A communication system according to claim 4 and wherein said multiplicity of voice response computers is actuated by the sender choosing an e-mail address of a recipient from a pre-defined directory.

40. A communication system according to claim 4 and wherein said multiplicity of voice response computers are actuated by the sender entering an e-mail address of a recipient via DTMF codes.

41. A communication system according to claim 40 and wherein said multiplicity of voice response computers are operative to store in a directory, e-mail addresses entered by a sender.

42. A communication system according to claim 4 and wherein said multiplicity of voice response computers is actuated by the sender entering an e-mail address of a recipient via speech recognition by one of said multiplicity of voice response computers.

43. A communication system according to claim 5 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network.

44. A communication system according to claim 5 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

45. A communication system according to claim 5 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's voice response computer.

46. A communication system according to claim 5 and wherein said voice response computers are capable of sensing the presence of a link to an audio file in e-mail received thereat.

47. A communication system according to claim 46 and wherein said voice response computers are capable of accessing said audio file via said link for playing said audio file to a recipient.

48. A communication system according to claim 6 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network.

49. A communication system according to claim 6 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

50. A communication system according to claim 6 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's voice response computer.

51. A communication system according to claim 10 and wherein the recorder employs a telephone network.

52. A communication system according to claim 10 and wherein the recorder employs a microphone outputting to a computer.

53. A communication system according to claim 10 and wherein said web server stores the sender's voice together with the meta-information associated therewith in a single storage unit.

54. A communication system according to claim 53 and wherein the recorder spools the sender's voice to a local storage facility.

55. A communication system according to claim 53 and also comprising a transmitter transmitting a sender's voice

56. A communication system according to claim 55 and wherein said transmitter transmits said sender's voice via HTTP PUT to said web server.

57. A communication system according to claim 55 and wherein the transmitter spools the sender's voice to an SMTP server.

58. A communication system according to claim 55 and wherein the transmitter encodes a sender's voice in a compressed format.

59. A communication system according to claim 55 and wherein said web server includes an SMTP server.

60. A communication system according to claim 55 and wherein said web server includes an HTTP server enabled to handle PUT



~~commands.~~

61. A communication system according to claim 10 and wherein said web server encodes said sender's voice in a streaming format.

62. A communication system according to claim 10 and wherein said web server is operative to encode multiple senders' voices simultaneously.

63. A communication system according to claim 10 and wherein said web server includes functionality which associates user preferences with recorded user voice elements.

64. A communication system according to claim 10 and also having the following functionality:

formatting the notification as a function of at least one parameter of the recipient.

65. A communication system according to claim 10 and also having the following functionality:

formatting the notification for a plurality of participants as a function of at least one parameter of each recipient.

66. A communication system according to claim 10 and wherein said link connects to at least an advertising medium.

67. A communication system according to claim 66 and wherein said link also connects to an audio file.

68. A communication system according to claim 14 and wherein each of said multiplicity of databases contains a plurality of mail tables, wherein each mail table has assigned thereto a limited number of users.

69. A communication system according to claim 14 and wherein at least one of said multiplicity of databases includes a list of destination addresses.

70. A communication system according to claim 69 and wherein said list comprises a multiplicity of lists of destination addresses.

71. A communication system according to claim 70 and wherein at least one of said multiplicity of databases includes a meta-list for indexing said multiplicity of lists.

72. A method for management of electronic mail, comprising the steps of:  
converting an e-mail message from text to speech;  
receiving an input request for a selected e-mail message;  
reading the selected e-mail message;  
recording a reply to the selected e-mail message,  
producing an audio file; and

sending the audio file as an attachment to a reply e-mail.

73. The method of claim 72 wherein the audio file is a WAV file.

74. The method of claim 72 wherein the audio file is a compressed WAV file.

75. The method of claim 72 and also the step of downloading an e-mail message from an e-mail server.

76. The method of claim 72 and also including the step of forwarding the selected e-mail message to a pager.

77. The method of claim 72 and also including the step of forwarding the selected e-mail message to a fax machine.

78. A method for management of electronic mail, comprising the steps of:

converting an e-mail message from text to speech;

receiving an input request for a selected e-mail message;

reading the selected e-mail message;

recording a reply to the selected e-mail message, producing an audio file;

storing the audio file on a computer; and

sending a reply e-mail containing a link to the audio file.

79. The method of claim 78 wherein the audio file is a RealAudio file.

80. The method of claim 78 and also including the step of downloading an e-mail message from an e-mail server.

81. The method of claim 78 and also including the step of forwarding the selected e-mail message to a pager.

82. The method of claim 78 and also including the step of forwarding the selected e-mail message to a fax machine.

83. A system for management of electronic mail, comprising:  
a text-to-speech converter converting an e-mail message from text to speech;

a receiver receiving an input request for a selected e-mail message;

an audio player reading the selected e-mail message;

an audio recorder recording a reply to the selected e-mail message, producing an audio file; and

a transmitter sending the audio file as an attachment to a reply e-mail.

84. The system of claim 83 wherein the audio file is a WAV file.

85. The system of claim 84 wherein the audio file is a compressed WAV file.

86. The system of claim 83 and also including a downloader downloading an e-mail message from an e-mail server.

87. The system of claim 83 and also including a mail forwarder forwarding the selected e-mail message to a pager.

88. The system of claim 83 and also including a mail forwarder forwarding the selected e-mail message to a fax machine.

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89. A system for management of electronic mail, comprising:  
a text-to-speech converter converting an e-mail message from text to speech;  
a receiver receiving an input request for a selected e-mail message;  
an audio player reading the selected e-mail message;  
an audio recorder recording a reply to the selected e-mail message, producing an audio file;  
a computer storing the audio file; and  
a transmitter sending a reply e-mail containing a link to the audio file.

90. The system of claim 89 wherein the audio file is a RealAudio file.

91. The system of claim 89 and also including a downloader downloading an e-mail message from an e-mail server.

92. The system of claim 89 and also including a mail forwarder forwarding the selected e-mail message to a pager.

93. The system of claim 89 and also including a mail forwarder forwarding the selected e-mail message to a fax machine.

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~~94. A method for managing voice electronic mail comprising the steps of:~~

~~playing by a local computer an incoming audio file containing a voice message, the incoming audio file residing on a remote computer; and~~

~~saving the incoming audio file as a local audio file on the local computer after said playing step.~~

95. The method of claim 94 wherein the incoming audio file is a streaming audio file.

96. The method of claim 95 wherein the streaming audio file is a RealAudio file.

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~~97. The method of claim 94 wherein the local audio file is a WAV file.~~

~~98. The method of claim 94 wherein the local audio file is~~

a compressed WAV file.

99. The method of claim 94 wherein the local audio file is a RealAudio file.

100. A method for management of electronic mail, comprising the steps of:

converting an e-mail message from text to speech;  
receiving an input request for a selected e-mail message;  
reading the selected e-mail message;  
recording a reply to the selected e-mail message, producing an audio file;  
sending the audio file as an attachment to a reply e-mail; and  
playing the audio file.

101. The method of claim 100 wherein the audio file is a WAV file.

102. The method of claim 100 wherein the audio file is a compressed WAV file.

103. The method of claim 102 and wherein said playing step includes the step of decompressing the audio file.

104. A method for management of electronic mail, comprising the steps of:

converting an e-mail message from text to speech;  
receiving an input request for a selected e-mail mes-  
sage;  
reading the selected e-mail message;  
recording a reply to the selected e-mail message,  
producing an audio file;  
storing the audio file on a first computer;  
sending a reply e-mail containing a link to the audio  
file;  
playing the audio file; and  
saving the audio file.

105. The method of claim 104 wherein the audio file is a RealAudio file.

106. The method of claim 104 and wherein said saving step includes the step of converting the audio file to a designated file format.

107. The method of claim 106 wherein the designated file format is a WAV format.

108. The method of claim 106 wherein the designated file format is a compressed WAV format.

109. A system for managing voice electronic mail comprising:  
an audio player within a local computer playing an



incoming audio file containing a voice message, the incoming audio file residing on a remote computer; and

a data processor saving the incoming audio file as a local audio file on the local computer, after said audio player plays the incoming audio file.

110. The system of claim 109 wherein the incoming audio file is a streaming audio file.

111. The system of claim 110 wherein the streaming audio file is a RealAudio file.

112. The system of claim 109 wherein the local audio file is a WAV file.

113. The system of claim 109 wherein the local audio file is a compressed WAV file.

114. The system of claim 109 wherein the local audio file is a RealAudio file.

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115. A system for management of electronic mail, comprising:  
a text-to-speech converter converting an e-mail message from text to speech;  
a receiver receiving an input request for a selected e-mail message;  
a first audio player reading the selected e-mail message;

an audio recorder recording a reply to the selected e-mail message, producing an audio file;

a transmitter sending the audio file as an attachment to a reply e-mail; and

a second audio player playing the audio file.

116. The system of claim 115 wherein the audio file is a WAV file.

117. The system of claim 115 wherein the audio file is a compressed WAV file.

118. The system of claim 117 and also comprising a decompressor decompressing the audio file.

119. A system for management of electronic mail, comprising:  
a text-to-speech converter converting an e-mail message from text to speech;

a receiver receiving an input request for a selected e-mail message;

a first audio player reading the selected e-mail message;

an audio recorder recording a reply to the selected e-mail message, producing an audio file;

a computer storing the audio file;

a transmitter sending a reply e-mail containing a link to the audio file;

a second audio player playing the audio file; and  
a data processor saving the audio file.

120. The system of claim 119 wherein the audio file is a RealAudio file.

121. The system of claim 119 and wherein said data processor converts the audio file to a designated file format.

122. The system of claim 121 wherein the designated file format is a WAV format.

123. The system of claim 121 wherein the designated file format is a compressed WAV format.

124. A method for management of electronic mail, comprising the steps of:

converting an e-mail message from text to speech;  
receiving an input request for a selected e-mail message;  
reading the selected-mail containing a link to the audio file;  
recording a reply to the selected e-mail message;  
producing an audio file containing the recorded reply;  
sending the audio file to a computer; and  
sending a reply e-mail containing a link to the audio file.

125. The method of claim 124 wherein the audio file is a RealAudio file.

126. The method of claim 124 and also including the step of downloading an e-mail message from an e-mail server.

127. The method of claim 124 and also including the step of forwarding the selected e-mail message to a pager.

128. The method of claim 124 and also including the step of forwarding the selected e-mail message to a fax machine..

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129. A system for management of electronic mail, comprising:  
a text-to-speech converter converting an e-mail message from text to speech;

a receiver receiving an input request for a selected e-mail message;

an audio player reading the selected e-mail message;

an audio recorder recording a reply to the selected e-mail message and producing an audio file containing the recorded reply; and

a transmitter sending the audio file to a computer and sending a reply e-mail containing a link to the audio file.

130. The system of claim 129 wherein the audio file is a RealAudio file.

131. The system of claim 129 and also including a downloader downloading an e-mail message from an e-mail server.

132. The system of claim 129 and also including a mail forwarder forwarding the selected e-mail message to a pager.

133. The system of claim 129 and also including a mail forwarder forwarding the selected e-mail message to a fax machine.

134. A method for management of electronic mail, comprising the steps of:

converting an e-mail message from text to speech;  
receiving an input request for a selected e-mail mes-

sage;

reading the selected e-mail message;

recording a reply to the selected e-mail message;

producing an audio file containing the recorded reply;

sending the audio file to a computer;

sending a reply e-mail containing a link to the audio file;

playing the audio file; and

saving the audio file.

135. The method of claim 134 wherein the audio file is a RealAudio file.

136. The method of claim 134 and wherein said saving step

includes the step of converting the audio file to a designated file format.

137. The method of claim 136 wherein the designated file format is a WAV format.

138. The method of claim 136 wherein the designated file format is a compressed WAV format.

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~~139. A system for management of electronic mail, comprising:  
a text-to-speech converter converting an e-mail message from text to speech;  
a receiver receiving an input request for a selected e-mail message;  
a first audio player reading the selected e-mail message;  
an audio recorder recording a reply to the selected e-mail message, and producing an audio file containing the recorded reply;  
a transmitter sending the audio file to a computer and sending a reply e-mail containing a link to the audio file;  
a second audio player playing the audio file; and  
a data processor saving the audio file.~~

140. The system of claim 139 wherein the audio file is a RealAudio file.

141. The system of claim 139 and wherein said data processor converts the audio file to a designated file format.

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142. The system of claim 141 wherein the designated file format is a WAV format.

143. The system of claim 141 wherein the designated file format is a compressed WAV format.

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144. A method for voice communication comprising the steps of:

providing a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

providing a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes;

enabling e-mail communication between said nodes;

providing a multiplicity of voice response computers, each voice response computer being connected to a node of said computer network; and

making each voice response computer actuatable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for communicating voice received via said one of said multiplicity of telephones via e-mail over said computer network.

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145. A method of voice communication according to claim 144 and also comprising the step of providing buddy functionality

whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network.

146. A method of voice communication according to claim 144 and also comprising the step of providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

147. A method of voice communication according to claim 144 and also comprising the step of providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's voice response computer.

148. A method of voice communication according to claim 144 and wherein said voice response computers are operative to convert DTMF to a buddy communication protocol.

149. A method of voice communication according to claim 144 and wherein said voice response computers communicate with a database.

150. A method of voice communication according to claim 149 and wherein said database is an SQL database.



151. A method of voice communication according to claim 144 and comprising the step of actuating at least one of said voice response computers by choosing an e-mail address of a recipient from a pre-defined directory.

152. A method of voice communication according to claim 144 and comprising the step of actuating at least one of said voice response computers by the entering an e-mail address of a recipient via DTMF codes.

153. A method of voice communication according to claim 152 and comprising the step of operating at least one of said voice response computers to store in a directory, e-mail addresses entered by a sender.

154. A method of voice communication according to claim 144 and comprising the step of actuating at least one of said voice response computers by entering an e-mail address of a recipient via speech recognition by the at least one of said multiplicity of voice response computers.

*See 612*  
~~155. A method of voice communication comprising the steps of:~~  
~~providing a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;~~

~~providing a computer network having a multiplicity of~~

nodes;

enabling e-mail communication between said nodes;

providing a multiplicity of voice response computers, each voice response computer being connected to a node of said computer network; and

making each voice response computer actuatable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of voice response computers via said computer network for receiving voice communicated via e-mail over said computer network and providing a voice output to a telephone via said telephone network.

156. A method of voice communication according to claim 155 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network.

157. A method of voice communication according to claim 155 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

158. A method of voice communication according to claim 155 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's voice response computer.

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159. A method of voice communication according to claim 155 and wherein said voice response computers are capable of sensing the presence of a link to an audio file in e-mail received thereat.

160. A method of voice communication system according to claim 159 and wherein said voice response computers are capable of accessing said audio file via said link for playing said audio file to a recipient.

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161. A method of voice communication comprising the steps of:

- providing a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;
- providing a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes;
- enabling e-mail communication between said nodes;
- providing a multiplicity of voice response computers, each voice response computer being connected to a node of said computer network;
- making each voice response computer actuable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for communicating voice received via said one of said multiplicity of telephones via e-mail over said computer network;
- making each voice response computer also actuable by an

input received from one of said multiplicity of voice response computers via said computer network for receiving voice communicated via e-mail over said computer network; and providing a voice output to a telephone via said telephone network.

162. A method of voice communication according to claim 161 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network.

163. A method of voice communication according to claim 161 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

164. A method of voice communication according to claim 161 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's voice response computer.

165. A method of voice communication comprising the steps of:

providing a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnec-

tions;

providing a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes;

enabling e-mail communication between said nodes;

connecting a multiplicity of voice response computers, each voice response computer to a node of said computer network; and

making actuatable at least one of said voice response computers by an input received from one of said multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for communicating voice received via said one of said multiplicity of telephones via a non-streaming Internet protocol over said computer network.

166. A method of voice communication according to claim 165 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network.

167. A method of voice communication according to claim 165 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

168. A method of voice communication according to claim 165 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's

voice response computer.

169. A method of voice communication according to claim 165 and comprising the step of operating said voice response computers to convert DTMF to a buddy communication protocol.

170. A method of voice communication according to claim 165 and comprising the step of actuating said multiplicity of voice response computers is by choosing an e-mail address of a recipient from a pre-defined directory.

171. A method of voice communication according to claim 165 and comprising the step of actuating said multiplicity of voice response computers by entering an e-mail address of a recipient via DTMF codes.

172. A method of voice communication according to claim 171 and comprising the step of operating said multiplicity of voice response computers to store in a directory, e-mail addresses entered by a sender.

173. A method of voice communication according to claim 165 and comprising the step of actuating said multiplicity of voice response computers by the entering an e-mail address of a recipient via speech recognition by one of said multiplicity of voice response computers.

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174. A method of voice communication comprising the steps of:

providing a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

providing a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes;

enabling non-streaming Internet protocol communication between said nodes;

connecting a multiplicity of voice response computers, each voice response computer to a node of said computer network; and

actuating an input received from one of said multiplicity of voice response computers via said computer network for receiving voice communicated via a non-streaming internet protocol over said computer network and providing a voice output to a telephone via said telephone network.

175. A method of voice communication according to claim 174 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network.

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176. A method of voice communication according to claim 174 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

177. A method of voice communication according to claim 174 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent from user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's voice response computer.

178. A method of voice communication according to claim 174 and comprising the step of being capable of sensing the presence of a link to an audio file in e-mail received thereat by said voice response computers.

179. A method of voice communication according to claim 178 and comprising the step of being capable of accessing said audio file via said link for playing said audio file to a recipient.

180. A method of voice communication comprising the steps of:

providing a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

providing a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes;

enabling e-mail communication between said nodes;

connecting at least one voice response computer of a multiplicity of voice response computers to a node of said computer network; and



actuating a voice response computer by an input received from one of said multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for communicating voice received via said one of said multiplicity of telephones via a non-streaming Internet protocol over said computer network, each voice response computer also being actuable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of voice response computers via said computer network for receiving voice communicated via a non-streaming Internet protocol over said computer network and providing a voice output to a telephone via said telephone network.

181. A method of voice communication according to claim 180 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network.

182. A method of voice communication according to claim 180 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user is communicating using a user's telephone via said telephone network with a user's voice response computer.

183. A method of voice communication according to claim 181 and also providing buddy functionality whereby communications are sent to user-selected buddies via said computer network indicating that a user has communicated voice via said telephone network and said computer network using a user's telephone and a user's voice response computer.

184.

A method of voice communication comprising the steps

of:

providing a cellular telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

providing a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes;

enabling communication between said nodes;

connecting at least one computer of a multiplicity of computers, to a node of said computer network; and

actuating at least one of said computers by an input received from one of said multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for communicating messages received via said one of said multiplicity of telephones via a telephone compatible Internet communication language over said computer network, at least one of senders or recipients of said messages being user-selected buddies.

185.

A method of voice communication comprising the steps

of:

providing a cellular telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

providing a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes;

enabling communication between said nodes;

connecting at least one computer of a multiplicity of

computers to a node of said computer network; and

actuating at least one of said computers by an input received from one of said multiplicity of voice response computers via said computer network for receiving messages communicated via a telephone compatible Internet communication language over said computer network and providing a telephone compatible Internet communication language output to a telephone via said telephone network, at least one of senders or recipients of said messages being user-selected buddies.

186. A method of voice communication comprising the steps of:

a providing a cellular telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

providing a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes;

enabling communication between said nodes;

connecting at least one computer of a multiplicity of computers to a node of said computer network; and

actuating at least one of said computers by an input received from one of said multiplicity of telephones via said telephone network for communicating messages received via said one of said multiplicity of telephones via a telephone compatible Internet communication language over said computer network, each computer also being actuatable by an input received from one of said multiplicity of computers via said computer network for receiving messages communicated over said computer network and

providing a telephone compatible Internet communication language output to a telephone via said telephone network, at least one of senders or recipients of said messages being user-selected buddies.

187. A method of voice communication for use with a computer network and comprising the steps of:

providing a recorder recording a sender's voice;  
providing a web server storing the sender's voice; and  
providing a notifier sending a notification to at least one recipient, said notification containing a link enabling retrieval of the sender's voice from said web server.

188. A method of voice communication according to claim 187 and comprising the step of employing a telephone network in the recorder.

189. A method of voice communication according to claim 187 and comprising the step of employing a microphone outputting to a computer in the recorder.

190. A method of voice communication according to claim 187 and comprising the step of storing the sender's voice together with the meta-information associated therewith in a single storage unit of said web server.

191. A method of voice communication according to claim 190

and comprising the step of spooling the sender's voice to a local storage facility in said recorder.

192. A method of voice communication according to claim 190 and also comprising the step of transmitting a sender's voice from a transmitter.

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193. A method of voice communication according to claim 192 and comprising the step of transmitting said sender's voice via HTTP PUT to said web server of said transmitter.

194. A method of voice communication according to claim 192 and comprising the step of spooling the sender's voice to an SMTP server of said transmitter.

195. A method of voice communication according to claim 192 and comprising the step of encoding a sender's voice in a compressed format in said transmitter.

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196. A method of voice communication according to claim 192 and comprising the step of including an SMTP server in said web server.

197. A method of voice communication according to claim 192 and comprising the step of including an HTTP server enabled to handle PUT commands in said web server.

198. A method of voice communication according to claim 187

and comprising the step of encoding said sender's voice in a streaming format in said web server.

199. A method of voice communication according to claim 187 and comprising the step of operating said web server to encode multiple senders' voices simultaneously.

200. A method of voice communication according to claim 187 and comprising the step of including a functionality which associates user preferences with recorded user voice elements in said web server.

201. A method of voice communication according to claim 187 and comprising the step of including the following functionality:  
formatting the notification as a function of at least one parameter of the recipient.

202. A method of voice communication according to claim 187 and comprising the step of including the following functionality:  
formatting the notification for a plurality of participants as a function of at least one parameter of each recipient.

203. A method of voice communication according to claim 187 and comprising the step of connecting said link to at least an advertising medium.

204. A method of voice communication according to claim 203

and also comprising the step of connecting said link also connects to an audio file.

205. A method of voice communication using:

a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling communication between said nodes;

at least one web server connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes; and

at least one voice response computer connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes,

and comprising the steps of:

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates data with said at least one web server using a telephone compatible Internet communication language;

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates voice with said at least one voice response computer; and

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates identification information to said at least one voice response computer, said identification information establishing a connection between said voice and said data.

206. A method of voice communication using:

a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and

enabling communication between said nodes;

at least one web server connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes; and

at least one voice response computer connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes,

and comprising the steps of:

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates data with said at least one web server using a telephone compatible Internet communication language;

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates voice with said at least one voice response computer;

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates identification information to said at least one voice response computer, said identification information establishing a connection between said voice and said data; and

said at least one voice response computer records said voice received from said at least one of said multiplicity of telephones.

207. A method of voice communication using:

a telephone network including a multiplicity of telephones interconnected by telephone network interconnections;

a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes and enabling communication between said nodes;

at least one web server connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes; and



at least one voice response computer connected to one of said multiplicity of nodes,

and the method comprising the steps of:

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates data with said at least one web server using a telephone compatible Internet communication language;

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates voice with said at least one voice response computer; and

at least one of said multiplicity of telephones communicates identification information to said at least one voice response computer, said identification information establishing a connection between said voice and said data;

said at least one voice response computer records said voice received from said at least one of said multiplicity of telephones and stores said voice on said web server; and

a notification is sent to at least one recipient, said notification containing a link enabling retrieval of the voice from said web server.

208. A method of voice communication comprising the steps of:

providing a computer network having a multiplicity of nodes;

enabling e-mail communication between said nodes;

connecting at least one database to said computer network; and

storing e-mail communications between said nodes.

209. A method of voice communication according to claim 208 and also comprising the step of connecting at least one voice response computer at a node of said computer network, said at least one voice response computer being capable of accessing said at least one database.

210. A method of voice communication according to claim 209 and comprising the step of interposing at least one proxy interposed between said at least one voice response computer and said at least one database.

211. A method of voice communication according to claim 208 and wherein each of said multiplicity of databases contains a plurality of mail tables, wherein each mail table has assigned thereto a limited number of users.

212. A method of voice communication according to claim 208 and wherein at least one of said multiplicity of databases includes a list of destination addresses.

213. A method of voice communication according to claim 212 and wherein said list comprises a multiplicity of lists of destination addresses.

214. A method of voice communication according to claim 213

and wherein at least one of said multiplicity of databases includes a meta-list for indexing said multiplicity of lists.

215. A method of voice communication according to claim 178 and wherein said voice response computers are capable of sensing the presence of a link to an audio file in e-mail received thereat.

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